

Applicants' remarks and amendments, filed on May 14, 2008, have been carefully considered. Claims 1-20 have been canceled, and new claims 21-32 have been added.

Claims 21-32 are now pending in this application.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Applicants' Priority Document was filed on September 28, 2005.

Withdrawn Objections and Rejections

The Objection to the Specification stated in the previous Office Action has been withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment thereto.

The 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9-14, 17, and 18 as being anticipated by Ohya et al. (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0132159), stated in the previous Office Action, has been withdrawn in view of Applicants' cancellation of these claims.

The 103(a) rejection of claim 8 as being unpatentable over Ohya et al. (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0132159) in view of Zuber et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,156,449), stated in the previous Office Action, has been withdrawn in view of Applicants' cancellation of this claim.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with T. Daniel Christenbury on August 14 and 15, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

a. Please change the dependency of claim 31 from "21" to "22".

The dependency was changed because claim 31, as originally presented, was identical to claim 26.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 21-32 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

5. The prior art of record does not teach or suggest the claimed metal-supported porous carbon film wherein metal fine particles having a mean particle diameter of 0.7 to 20 nm are dispersed and supported on pore surface walls of said porous carbon film, and wherein 15% to 95% of said metal fine particles consist of multiply twinned particles.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PATRICIA L. HAILEY whose telephone number is (571)272-1369. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo, can be reached on (571) 272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 1700 Receptionist, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Helene Klemanski/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/PATRICIA L. HAILEY/
Examiner, Art Unit 1793
August 15, 2008